

Church of Thyatira
(A Continual Sacrifice)

Mohammed (c.610) and Islam

The degraded, idolatrous, distorted Christianity of the Catholic church repulsed many people of the world, including Mohammed, who was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, about A.D. 570. At age 25, Mohammed married a wealthy widow whose fortunes allowed him time and money to travel. During his travels, he observed pagan religions and Catholicism and conclude that they were all idolatrous.

At 40 years of age, Mohammed declared himself a prophet and began to propagate by the sword his teachings that "there in one god, Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet.

Albigenses (c.1167) in France

The Albigenses, most of whom were from Albi, France, claimed that the New Testament, not the popes, provided the authority for their faith.

Waldensians (c. 1176) in France, Italy and Switzerland

Peter Waldo (1150-1220), a wealthy merchant in Lyons, France, became disgusted with the corruption he saw in the Roman church. By reading the New Testament, he became a follower of Christ and came to the conviction that Scripture is the sole authority for Christians. At his own expense, he had the Bible translated into the people's language. His followers, called Waldensians, more closely resembled the church at Smyrna.

John Wycliffe (c. 1330-1384) in England

John Wycliffe, known as "the Morning Star of the Reformation," was born in Hipswell, England. Influenced by Augustine's writings, he abhorred the corruption he saw in the Roman church.

Wycliffe began writing pamphlets in English that a farmer or shopkeeper could understand.

Wycliffe employed his followers to write out copies of his translation by hand (the printing press had not yet been invented).

Wycliffe had such an impact on the people that in 1415, thirty years after Wycliffe's death, the Council of Constance ordered that his books be burned and that his remains be dug up and burned. In 1428, the order was carried out.

John Huss (A.D. 1369-1414) in Bohemia

John Huss, the son of a peasant in Bohemia (in the Czech Republic), was influenced by the writings of John Wycliffe while attending the University of Prague. Huss later became pastor of the Bethlehem Chapel in Prague. Support for Huss came from all levels of society, from the common people to the wife of the king, and soon a movement of true Christianity broke out of Bohemia. This revival alarmed the Roman church.

Huss taught: "Not every priest is a saint, but every saint is a priest".

Savonarola (A.D. 1452-1498) in Italy

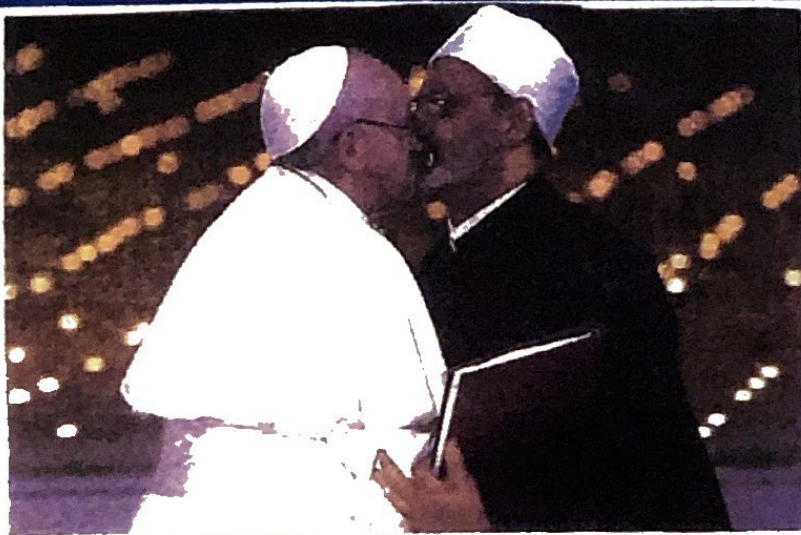
Savonarola, a wealthy young Italian nobleman, studied philosophy and medicine before becoming a Roman Catholic monk in 1474. He studied the writings of Augustine, became a pastor in Florence, Italy, and preached against sin.

Pope Alexander VI tried to bribe Savonarola to stop preaching against the pope and the Roman church, offering Savonarola the position of a cardinal. When Savonarola refused, he was arrested, excommunicated and hanged; later his body was burned.

I Timothy 4:1-5

(1) Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; (3) Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. (4) For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: (5) For it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer.

approximate dates	Dogmas Introduced into Roman Catholicism
A.D. 330	Prayers for the dead
A.D. 330	The sign of the cross
A.D. 431	Worship of Mary and use of the title "Mother of God"
A.D. 600	Latin language used exclusively in worship
A.D. 610	Title "pope" officially given to the Bishop of Rome
A.D. 709	Kissing of pope's feet (Pagans by custom kissed the emperor's feet. The Bible forbids this in Acts 10:25, 26; Rev. 19:10; 22:9.)
A.D. 750	Temporal power of popes When Pepin, the usurper of the throne of France, invaded Italy and conquered the Lombards, he gave the city of Rome and surrounding territory to the Pope. Jesus forbids such a thing and refused worldly kingship (Matt. 4:8, 9; 20:25, 26; John 18:38).
A.D. 788	Adoration of saints
A.D. 788	Adoration of the cross, images, and relics
A.D. 965	Blessing of bells
A.D. 998	Fasting: Lent, Advent, and Fridays
A.D. 1009	Fabrication of holy water
A.D. 1070	Marriage of priests forbidden
A.D. 1090	Rosary beads invented
A.D. 1190	Sale of Indulgences
A.D. 1215	Sacrifice of Mass officially recognized
A.D. 1215	Transubstantiation of bread
A.D. 1215	Articular confession of sins to a priest
A.D. 1220	Adoration of the water
A.D. 1414	People forbidden to take cup of Communion wine
A.D. 1438	Purgatory proclaimed
A.D. 1545	Tradition held equal with the Bible By tradition is meant human teachings. The Pharisees believed the same way, and Jesus condemned them, for by human tradition, they annulled the commandments of God (Mark 7:1-13; Col. 2:8; Rev. 22:18).
A.D. 1546	Apocryphal books added to the Bible
A.D. 1845	Immaculate conception of Mary made official
A.D. 1870	Infallibility of the pope made official



A.D. 30	100	300	500	approximate dates	1500	1700	1900	?
Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea		
"desirable"	"crushed"	"married"	"continual sacrifice"	"remnant"	"brotherly love"	"rights or rule of the people"		
Apostolic church	Persecuted church	Worldly, imperial church	Pagan, papal church	Reformation church	Revival, missionary church	Lukewarm, tolerant, ecumenical church		